

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05752 01 OF 02 091756Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 NIC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9272

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05752

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, GE, WB, UR

SUBJECT: FRG REPORT ON MARCH 24 FRG-GDR NEGOTIATING
ROUND ON ROAD TRANSIT TRAFFIC

REF: BONN 4622

SUMMARY: FRG HAS BRIEFED ALLIES IN APRIL 8 BONN GROUP MEETING ON THE FIRST ROUND OF FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS (ON ROAD TRANSIT TRAFFIC) FOLLOWING FROM THE GDR PACKAGE OFFER OF ITEMS FOR NEGOTIATION MADE TO BONN LAST FALL (SEE BONN 18976, DEC. 9, 1974). NEGOTIATING SESSION WAS HELD MARCH 24 IN EAST BERLIN, WITH FRG SIDE LED BY PERM REP CHIEF GAUS AND GDR SIDE BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT SCHLIMPER. ACCORDING TO FRG REPORT, TALKS WERE MARKED BY FRIENDLY AND BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE. NEXT FRG-GDR SESSION ON SUBJECT SET FOR APRIL 29, ALSO IN EAST BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BONN 05752 01 OF 02 091756Z

1. FRG REP (KASTRUP), READING FROM A REPORT, BRIEFED ALLIES IN APRIL 8 BONN GROUP MEETING ON MARCH 24 FRG-GDR NEGOTIATING SESSION. KASTRUP SAID TALKS IN EAST BERLIN LASTED ENTIRE DAY AND WERE MARKED BY ATMOSPHERE WHICH WAS EMPHATICALLY FRIENDLY AND BUSINESSLIKE. BOTH SIDES, SAID KASTRUP, EMPHASIZED IN THEIR OPENING STATEMENTS THE GREAT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE WHICH EACH ATTACHES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, GAUS ALSO REFERRING TO THE SCHMIDT-HONECKER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHICH REFLECTED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. GAUS DECLARED THAT THE GDR PACKAGE PROPOSALS OF LAST DECEMBER WERE THE BASIS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT ADDED THAT FRG NUMBER ONE OBJECTIVE WAS REACHING AGREEMENT ON "ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES" OF OPENING NEW WEST BERLIN-GDR TRANSIT TRAFFIC CROSSING POINTS TO RELIEVE DREILINDEN BURDEN AT HEILIGENSEE (NOTE: APPARENTLY AT RUPPINER CHAUSEE) AND AT LICHTENRADE (NOTE: APPARENTLY AT KIRCHHAINER DAMM) (SEE PARA 4 REFTEL).

2. REGARDING FINANCING OF WHATEVER PROJECTS MAY BE AGREED, KASTRUP SAID BOTH SIDES INDICATED IN GENERAL WAY THEIR DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW, WITH SCHLIMPER REFERRING TO GDR POSITION THAT NO NEW FINANCIAL BURDENS SHOULD FALL TO EAST GERMANY AND GAUS EMPHASIZING BONN'S POSITION ALREADY MADE KNOWN TO GDR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT COST BENEFIT CALCULATION NEEDED IN ORDER TO PROPERLY DIVIDE COSTS. GAUS ADDED THAT GDR SHOULD NOT ASSUME ALL FINANCIAL COSTS WOULD BE BORNE BY FRG, AND THAT THE UPCOMING FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT TO FIX FRG LUMP-SUM PAYMENT MUST BE KEPT IN MIND. BOTH SIDES, SAID KASTRUP, AGREED THAT FINANCIAL QUESTION WOULD REQUIRE DETAILED CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE ROUNDS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. KASTRUP SAID THAT GDR REPLY TO GAUS' STATEMENT ON OPENING OF CROSSING POINTS IN HEILIGENSEE AND LICHTENRADE WAS "IF AT ALL" A MATTER FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN GDR AND SENAT. GAUS REJECTED THIS REPLY, ASSERTING THAT CROSSING POINTS MUST BE SEEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSIT AGREEMENTS AND WITH A POSSIBLE NEW NORTHERN AUTOBAHN (TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 05752 01 OF 02 091756Z

HAMBURG). THE NEGOTIATING PARTNERS MUST THUS BE FRG AND GDR. SCHLIMPER RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO THIS MATTER IN A FUTURE SESSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. KASTRUP SAID OF THE THREE MAJOR ITEMS REGARDING ROAD TRANSIT TRAFFIC WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS--IN FRG ORDER OF PRIORITY FOR ROAD TRAFFIC: A) "RESTORATION" OF THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN; B)

EXTENSION OF THE BERLINER RING (BELTWAY); AND C) CONSTRUCTION OF A HAMBURG-BERLIN AUTOBAHN--THAT THE GDR ESTIMATED WORK TIME FOR HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN AS 3.5 TO 4 YEARS, AND FOR BERLINER RING AS 2 YEARS. SCHLIMPER GAVE NO ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE HAMBURG-BERLIN AUTOBAHN. KASTRUP SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT THAT GDR DEL HAD MADE IT CLEAR IN MARCH 24 SESSION THAT EAST GERMANS WOULD CARRY OUT CONSTRUCTION

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PAGE 01 BONN 05752 02 OF 02 091754Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05752

WITH OWN WORK FORCE. COMMENT: IN PARA 3 OF GDR DECEMBER 9, 1974 NOTE TO FRG CONTAINING PROPOSAL PACKAGE, THE EAST GERMANS SAID THEY EXPECT THAT THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE ROAD PROJECTS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE FRG. SCHLIMPER'S STATEMENT REPORTED ABOVE, SHOULD, HOWEVER, NOT BE SEEN AS TOO SURPRISING.

AS NOTED IN BONN 808, IT HAS BEEN THE VIEW IN BONN THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF FRG CONSTRUCTION GANGS WORKING IN THE GDR COULD BE A REAL COMPLICATING FACTOR. END COMMENT.

5. KASTRUP SAID THE TWO DELS AGREED TO RESUME TALKS ON ROAD MATTERS IN EAST BERLIN ON APRIL 29. HE CONFIRMED THAT GAUS WOULD ALSO LEAD FRG DEL IN TALKS WITH GDR ON RAIL TRANSIT TRAFFIC BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM AN OPENING DATE. (NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND THAT RAIL TALKS MAY BEGIN AT MID-MONTH.)
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PAGE 02 BONN 05752 02 OF 02 091754Z

6. COMMENT: REGARDING FRG PRIORITIES FOR ROAD PROJECTS, BONN'S LISTING OF BERLIN-HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN AS NUMBER ONE FITS IN NICELY WITH ALLIED THINKING: WE DO NOT YET KNOW, HOWEVER, WHERE THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT FITS INTO ENTIRE PACKAGE OF COMPLICATED NEGOTIATION WHICH ALSO INCLUDES RAIL AND WATER PROJECTS.
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